

# Russian Envoys Face Fire And Water in City Greeting

Burst of Flames Greeted Mission at Formal Welcome in Which New York Firemen Display Their Skill—Some of the Guests Flee

The Russian War Mission passed a lively day in Manhattan yesterday, responding to an ovation that was continuous from the time the visitors came from the Claremont, where the Mayor's luncheon was held, until they departed, at 6 in the evening, from a mass meeting in the Mall of Central Park, where 15,000 persons acclaimed them.

Letters had been passed out bearing the words of the new Russian anthem, which the throng in the park did its best to sing to the proper tune. Harry Barnhart, director of the New York Community Chorus, who was a guest listener, declared the attempt was not so bad for an impromptu performance. The Russians were surprised and immensely pleased. Ambassador Bakhmeteff expressed himself amazed and delighted beyond measure at the warmth of New York's welcome.

It would be unfair to surmise that when he used the phrase the diplomat had in mind an incident of a few hours before, when the welcome to the visiting envoys became so warm that some of them were driven from their seats in the court of the fire department in the exhibition of the College of the City of New York.

This incident tinged the day with the spice of apparent danger, and for the moment had few thousand spectators on their feet and holding their breath. The grand finale of the firemen's display, at which the envoys and Mayor Mitchell were the guests of honor, was an exhibition of fire fighters at work on a burning building. A three-story structure of highly inflammable material had been erected in the center of the field directly in front of the boxes occupied by the visitors.

After an hour with spectacular rescue feats the "building" was set afire. It burned much more rapidly than had been anticipated, however, and long before the engines and hook and ladder companies arrived the flames were leaping 100 feet into the air. Just then a severe breeze came along and guided the tongues of fire directly toward the Russians' boxes.

The stands were showered with sparks, and like the breath of a furnace came the heat. Many leaped from the boxes and fled to escape it, and there was a general scattering from the stands. Firemen rushed forward, shouting for everybody to keep their seats, but there was no real danger, for an instant it looked as if panic was imminent.

The engines dashed up just in time, and hoses were working feverishly had the fire in control in a minute. A water tower delivering a high pressure stream was run into position and inadvertently turned in the direction of the commissioners, who, having been scorched one moment, narrowly escaped being drenched the next. The spray reached them, however, and when it was over, the hitherto immaculate uniforms had the appearance of having been caught in a summer shower.

In twenty automobiles the Russian mission sped up Riverside Drive and through Van Cortlandt and Bronx parks, returning through Central Park to the Mall. Here the Russians received the greatest ovation of the day. Herbert Parsons welcomed them.

"We are 10-day," he said, "not only your official friends, but allies, and soon will be comrades cemented by sacrifice against the barbaric forces on land and sea which have put the world to shame and have violated every law and ideal of justice which the progress of civilization has erected against the onslaught of barbarism."

Oscar S. Straus asserted that any one who raises a voice or commits an act against our allies is a traitor and works in the interest of Germany.

"I need not remind the working

class," he said, "as well as our captains of industry, of the pressing and patriotic need to adjust their differences in a peaceful and amicable way. A strike, whether in our mines, machine shops, factories or streetcars, is in these times a strike against patriotism and an encouragement and a comfort to our enemies."

Ambassador Bakhmeteff said the future of the world hangs on the issue of this war.

"Russia is free," he exclaimed. "One hundred and eighty million men, women and children have been given the joy of peaceful, self-conscious existence and the blessings of self-government. The Poles are free; the Jews are free (here the speaker was interrupted by prolonged applause). Let us be one. Let us fight for democracy and liberty."

Resolutions were also adopted against the Democratic minority of the Legislature, asserting that it failed to keep its promises to bring about the repeal of military laws objected to.

The city administration came in for criticism also for failure to raise the pay of policemen, firemen and other city employees.

## 12 Firemen Receive Medals from Mayor

Medals for valor were awarded to twelve heroes of the Fire Department by Mayor Mitchell yesterday at the annual exhibition of the Fire Department in the stadium of the College of the City of New York. The members of the Russian War Mission were the guests of honor.

The medals given for heroic rescues of the last year and their winners are:

James Gordon Bennett medal and department medal—Fireman (first grade) John Walsh, Hook and Ladder Company 5.

Henry P. Worthen medal and department medal—Fireman (second grade) John Devine, Hook and Ladder Company 3.

Brooklyn Citizen's medal and department medal—Fireman (first grade) Ferdinand A. Beyer, Hook and Ladder Company 108.

William S. Hoar medal and department medal—Fireman (first grade) Leland Wallace, Hook and Ladder Company 108.

Thomas E. Crimmins memorial medal and department medal—Fireman (first grade) Richard Margala, Hook and Ladder Company 3.

Department medal—Captain John E. Farley, Hook and Ladder Company 8.

Department medal—Fireman (first grade) Thomas Kilbride, Rescue Company 1.

Stephenson medal—Captain James J. Moore, Hook and Ladder Company 120.

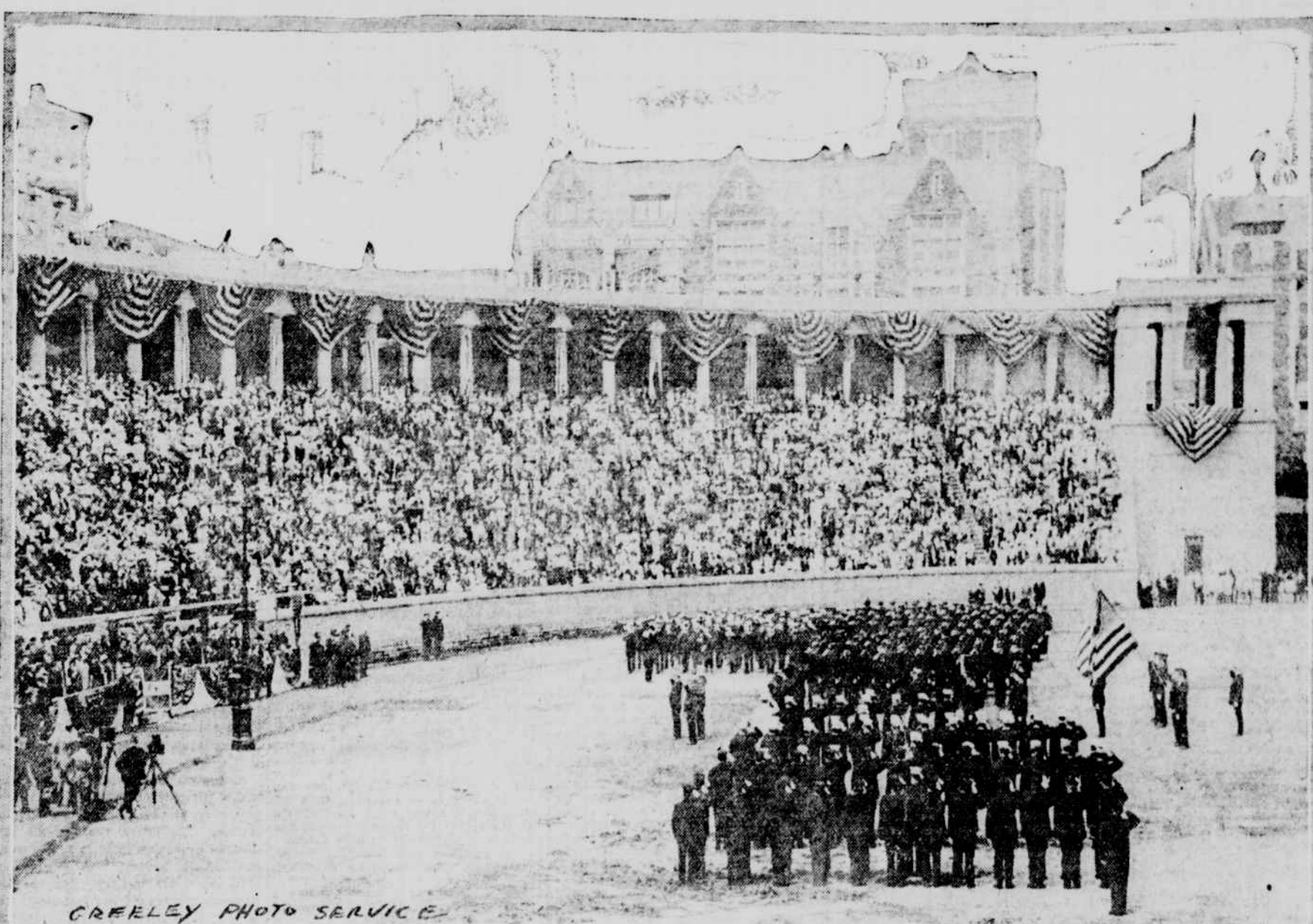
College efficiency medal—To each member of Hook and Ladder Company 10.

Administration medal—Captain Charles W. Rankin, Engine Company 33.

A parade showing the evolution of the fire engine also gave opportunity for a study in styles of firefighters' uniforms for the last century. Drawing an old hand pump wagon used in New York in 1810 were veterans of the Fire Department of Civil War times.

On a three-story frame structure erected in the stadium field the firemen thrilled the 5,000 who watched with spectacular rescues, and as a grand finale the building was set on fire.

## RUSSIAN MISSION SEES FIRE DEPARTMENT DRILL AT STADIUM



Greeley Photo Service

## Canada Shows U. S. That Troops Can Be Trained in Six Months

Dominion's Experience Makes It Clear That Problem of Fitting Raw Recruits for Actual Service Overseas Is One of Organization—Selective Draft Will Help

(Special Correspondence to The Tribune.)

Toronto, June 15.—Competent Canadian military authorities are convinced that under ideal conditions men will out previous soldier training can be fitted for infantry service at the front in between four and six months.

Of course, ideal conditions are difficult to secure, and this record has not been attained with any of the Canadian troops. Plans have been worked out, however, and probably will be applied to the men drafted under the selective conscription system to fit raw recruits for active service overseas in less than six months. The problem essentially is one of organization. Canada's experience makes that abundantly clear.

The world has marvelled at this country's achievement at Valcartier camp and the dispatch across the Atlantic Ocean of a fully equipped expeditionary force of 33,000 men within two months of the outbreak of war between Great Britain and Germany. But the magnitude of that feat cannot be appreciated properly until one considers that on August 4, 1914, Canada had a permanent force of only about 3,500 men.

These soldiers, who for the most part were instructors and men on guard duty, provided a nucleus for a training organization. In addition to its "standing army," the Dominion had an active militia numbering approximately 60,000 men. Their training consisted of what has been aptly called "after-supper soldiering." Members of city regiments drilled for one night each week, participated in an annual church parade, and spent two weeks every year in summer camp.

Militia Units Furnished Army

The training of the rural regiments consisted almost entirely of the two weeks in summer camp. Yet from these militia units was drawn a large proportion of the men in the first Canadian overseas contingent, while the militia regiments, to a large extent, have been the basis of Canada's recruiting organization since the outbreak of hostilities.

Enlistments to date in the expeditionary force total approximately 415,000, while probably 150,000 applicants have been rejected as physically unfit, so that the work has been a tremendous one.

Immediately upon the declaration of war General Hughes telegraphed the officers commanding the militia regiments to commence recruiting for overseas service. After the recruits were signed up and accepted, they lived at home and drilled during the day at the armories throughout the Dominion.

Meanwhile, Valcartier camp was being prepared for the gathering army. The building of this great military centre almost overnight was an engineering feat of no mean magnitude. Two weeks after work was started, troops recruited by the militia regiments began to arrive, and before the end of August Valcartier was a tented city of 25,000 soldiers.

There were some complaints, of course. They were inevitable in an encampment so hastily prepared. But the essentials were there, and when the contingent sailed from the shores of Gaspe on October 3 it was a well-trained, efficient body of soldiers, besides being the largest army that ever crossed the Atlantic at one time.

Second Army Raised

After the departure of the first contingent recruiting was continued by the militia regiments, and during the winter the men were quartered in exhibition grounds, Y. M. C. A.'s, sheds, etc. In the spring of 1915 existing camps were enlarged and new ones opened.

During this period the recruiting machinery developed from the militia regiments. Through the latter the men were recommended to command new battalions. These O. C.'s selected most of their subordinate officers from their own militia regiments and used the parent organization as a general basis for recruiting operations. Headquarters being located at the regimental armories.

The keen competition existing between the militia units was maintained by the militia organizations, and battalions were raised in a few weeks. For months enlistments all over Canada averaged more than 1,000 men daily, and with recruits coming forward at this rate there was no necessity of protracted delay in bringing battalions up to strength.

There is a disposition, especially in military circles, to attribute the increasing difficulty of the recruiting situation during the winter of 1915-16, and since to a change of system and the introduction of the so-called "political conscripts." The change, however, was rather the result of new conditions than the cause of it. Recruiting had slowed down—largely from natural causes.

New Appeal Was Needed

A new appeal was needed to reach a class of eligible men who had not yet enlisted. The recruiting problem apparently had outgrown the facilities of the militia organizations. Rightly or wrongly, the government commissioned a number of well-known men, without military experience, to raise battalions. Their popularity and local confidence in them were the excuses for their appointment, and the experiment was partly successful.

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politics about it, although it may be stated emphatically that politics had not been a serious influence in connection with the recruiting, training, or leadership of Canada's overseas forces. That such is the case stands to the enduring credit of Major General Sir Sam Hughes, the former Minister of Militia.

The attempt to "popularize" recruiting was soon found to entail serious evils. Competition for recruits in an already well-combed field became very keen. The new political colonels realized that their reputations were at stake, and in the effort to fill up their battalions various undignified and regrettable expedients were employed. Calumny, bean-counting contests, lotteries and callithumpian methods generally marked a period in Canada's recruiting history which is not pleasant to review, and which brought discredit upon the entire voluntary enlistment system as a permanent method of filling up armies.

Training of New Men Delayed

Besides the moral influence of such schemes to get men in khaki, the recruiting efforts of the political colonels had a serious effect in delaying the training of new men. With their personal reputations as organizers involved, the commanding officers were reluctant to admit inability to fill up the ranks of their units and repeatedly pleaded for more time.

For months partly recruited battalions made little or no progress with their training, while the officers devised new recruiting "stunts" and while men

were being sought in the highways and byways.

The situation was complicated by allowing a number of infantry battalions to recruit in the same area at the same time, with the result that the new men came in dribbles, valuable time was lost and much money wasted. In some cases it has taken well over a year from the date when they were authorized before battalions were dispatched overseas—due very largely to ineffective recruiting methods. Battalions were allowed to continue the heart-breaking quest of recruits long after they should have been amalgamated and sent to England. Such amalgamations came ultimately, battalions retaining their identity when leaving Canada only when 600 or more strong.

The high cost of recruits was a direct consequence of competition among battalions recruiting independently in the same territory at the same time. The government allowance was not adequate to maintain the pace and had to be supplemented by private funds.

There is to-day in Toronto a certain group of fifty recruits referred to as the "50,000 squad," because it is estimated that the cost of recruiting them averaged nearly \$200 each, the money coming from private funds of officers and their friends. Perhaps the estimate involves some exaggeration, but many units have added to their ranks only at a cost of \$50 or more per recruit.

Some idea of the waste of such a system may be secured when it is stated that, with men coming forward free-

ly, the cost of recruiting is considerably less than \$10 per man, even after allowing a generous bonus to the recruiting sergeants. More serious than the cost in money has been the delay in training men needed at the front.

Canada's experience constitutes a severe indictment of the voluntary system of recruiting, although sterner measures at the outset were a political impossibility. The free will enlistment plan had to be given a thorough test, and its inadequacy demonstrated and repeatedly emphasized before public opinion would support resort to compulsion.

English speaking Canada at least has learned that lesson to-day, and it is extremely doubtful whether the United States would have adopted the selective draft system at the commencement of its participation in the war, if it had not been that the experience of Canada and the United Kingdom established the weakness inherent in the voluntary system.

Lesson for the United States

For the United States this is the outstanding lesson from the military history of Canada since the outbreak of the war: With the raw recruits provided for the organization of complete battalions, overseas units can be made ready for the front in from four to six months. But under the voluntary enlistment plan, after the initial patriotic rush to the colors, recruiting necessities delay the preparation of new troops and the period of training may easily be lengthened to a year or even longer.

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## Chicago Romance In Andy Graham's Bank Collapse

Financier's Faith in West Side Led to Institution's Ruin

(Special to The Tribune.)

Chicago, July 7.—Back of the failure of the Graham Bank here last Friday, a \$4,000,000 institution and the largest private bank in this part of the country, is a story as romantic as the story of Chicago itself, with which it is inextricably woven. Private banks are an anachronism nowadays, a relic of the day when financial honor and credit were matters of individual establishment, before the time of government check control which makes it difficult for financial institutions to be dishonest or even unwise.

But Andy Graham, as Chicago's West Side knew him through the years in which he built the fortunes of the West Side, along with his own, was also the kind of banker that earlier days found more common than those of now. For half a century he was the confident and adviser of the West Side, a banker who could advise rich and poor alike because he had once been poor and was now a millionaire. He had made a bank out of a furniture store that his father had established, and through successive stages saw it grow from an agency for steamship tickets into a financial institution with 15,000 depositors.

Died Burdened with Debt

A year ago he died. It is possible that worry and anxiety over the future of the thing he had built had much to do with his death. For five years a debt of almost three-quarters of a million dollars had hung over his head, a debt that his faith in the West Side of Chicago made it impossible for him to pay. But all that the public has only just found out. For Graham's sons, men as devoted and square as himself, recent investigations go to show, took up the burden he had dropped, and it was only when all their efforts—even to pouring in \$500,000 of insurance money—were found ineffectual, that they went to the courts and asked for a receiver.

The investigation which is going to be made into the affairs of the Graham Bank will probably disclose that it was a misguided faith which wrecked the bank. Instead of the liquid securities which state and national banks are continually admonished to keep in their vaults, the Graham Bank's assets were made up of valuable but slow turning real estate mortgages and deeds. Andy Graham believed in the future of Chicago's West Side and he put much of the bank's money into it. But factory sites do not always move swiftly in the real estate market, and there came a time when wreckage was inevitable.

Liberty Campaign Final Blow

That time loomed over the horizon when the Chicago Clearing House demanded certain conditions to which Andy Graham would not conform and he withdrew, clearing his own checks. Then came the Federal Reserve system, strengthening national banks, weakening private ones. The final blow was the Liberty Bond campaign. So many of the 15,000 investors withdrew their deposits to invest in the government's war loan that the bank could stand it no longer.

There is no belief in Chicago that irregularities of any kind have had anything to do with the failure of the bank. And state banking officials believe that the bank will pay out to its depositors, perhaps even dollar for dollar. The only fault any one can find is with the old-fashioned methods of a man who believed deeply in his own judgment and against whom, until death had first taken him, modern methods of state and private cooperation were unavailing.

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